

*Stated Meeting, February 4th, 1870.*

Present, ten members.

MR. FRALEY, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters accepting membership were received from Mr. W. M. Tilghman, dated Philadelphia, 1114 Girard street, Jan. 25, and Mrs. Emma Seiler, dated Philadelphia, Feb. 1, 1870.

Letters acknowledging the receipt of Proc. No. 82, were received from the Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Georgia Historical Societies, and from the Peabody Institute in Baltimore.

The request of the Georgia Historical Society for a complete set of Proceedings A. P. S. was granted.

A letter was received from Prof. Charles E. Anthon, of the College of New York City, accompanying a donation for the Library of 44 numbers of the New York Numismatic Society Journal.

Donations for the Library were also received from the Russian Geographical, and Paris Ethnological Societies; Dublin Observatory; Boston N. H. Society; Amer. Antiquar. Society; Amer. Jour. S. and A.; Philadelphia Academy N. S.; Medical News and Library; Maj. Gen. Humphreys, and the Chicago College of Pharmacy.

The death of Horace Binney, Junr., at Philadelphia, on the 3d inst., aged 61 years, was announced by Mr. Fraley. On motion of Prof. Kendall, Chas. J. Stillé, Esq., Provost of the University, was appointed to prepare an Obituary notice of the deceased.

The extraordinary mildness of the Winter was illustrated by a fact communicated to the Secretary by Mr. Hector Orr, who watched carefully for two minutes the evolutions of a bat about the corners of Spruce and Third streets. Other members present gave similar illustrations; as for example, expanded blossoms gathered January 30th, in the open air: peach trees in blossom at Lock Haven, Pa., &c.

Mr. Chase communicated additional deductions from a study of the rain fall tables of the Philadelphia Hospital. (See p. 311)

Dr. Brinton introduced to the attention of the Society a valuable contribution to the study of the Choctaw language, in the form of a Grammar prepared by the venerable Missionary Byington, recently deceased. His long and zealous labors have resulted in the publication of a list of more than 75 works, including the Bible, in the Choctaw language. After four revisions of his Grammar, he was at his death engaged upon a fifth.

This manuscript, the fruit of 40 years' labor, has been forwarded to Dr. Brinton by Mr. Dana, Mr. Byington's son-in-law, and consists of portions of these five revisions, interlined, and somewhat confused in the order of its subjects, but thrown into two principal divisions, the first of which, on the Orthography of the language, is written out; while the other, on the Parts of Speech, will need to be carefully edited. Mrs. Byington and the other heirs, present it to the Society on condition that a committee be appointed to edit it, within a reasonable time. Mr. Folsom, a Choctaw gentleman, will soon be in Philadelphia, on a commission to publish the Laws of the Indian Government, and has promised his aid in proof-reading. The Grammar will probably make about 40 pages, 8vo., and require a few new types, obtainable at small expense. The Grammar will be of practical use in developing the civilization of the Tribes, as the language is extremely difficult. It has, moreover, peculiar claims to scientific attention; for the Choctaw, Creek and Chickasaw are affiliated dialects, spoken, at the time of the arrival of Europeans, by a people spread over a great part of the United States. There is no man now living capable of writing, or likely to attempt the construction of a Grammar of either of them.

A committee consisting of Dr. Brinton, Mr. Lesley, and Prof. Haldeman, of Columbia, Pa., were appointed to consider and report upon the subject.

On motion of the Secretary, the University of Indiana was placed on the list of corresponding societies to receive a complete set of the Proceedings, in answer to a request from Prof. Kirkwood.

On motion it was

*Resolved*, That the Secretaries be instructed to print with the next No. of the Proceedings, a list of the surviving members of the Society, and a request to all the members to send their proper addresses, and photographs for the Album.

Pending nominations Nos. 649 to 655 were read.

And the Society was adjourned.

*Stated Meeting, February 18th, 1870.*

Present, six members.

PROF. CRESSON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter accepting membership was received from John G. Whittier, dated Amesbury, 4th 2d mo., 1870.

A letter enclosing a photograph for the album was received from Daniel Wilson, dated Toronto, Univ. College, Canada, Feb. 8, 1870.

A letter acknowledging the receipt of Proceedings No. 82, was received from the Essex Institute, in Salem, Mass.

Donations for the Library were received from the Nicolai Hauptsternwarte at St. Petersburg; the Norwegian University at Christiania; the Society at Throntheim; the Austrian Academy and Geological Institute; the Görlitz Society; the Holland Academy and Natural History Society, and M. Höck; Sig. Lombardini; the new Geological Committee of Italy, at Florence; the Society of Physical and Natural Sciences at Bordeaux; Paris Geographical Society; London Astronomical Society and Society of Arts; Essex Institute; Dr. B. A. Gould; Dr. S. A. Green, of Boston; Mr. E. A. Stone, of Providence; the Franklin Institute and School of Design for Women, in Philadelphia; Col. W. W. H. Davis; the Ameri-